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IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT IN CHINA

[Comment: This report presents information on improved methods of combating insects, distribution of insecticides and fertilizers, operation of model farms, and use of farm implements in China, and also on expansion of state farm programs in Central-South China in 1954.]

LARGE QUANTITIES OF INSECTICIDES DISTRIBUTED -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Feb 54

The consolidated cooperatives in Nan-hai Hsien [Kwangtung Province] have distributed large quantities of insecticides, including 480 boxes of "666" powder for dry use, 1,440 boxes of "666" powder for spray use, 100 shih tan [one shih tan is equivalent to 50 kilograms] of *Millettia pachycarpa* benth., 100 shih tan of extract of *Millettia pachycarpa* benth., 600 shih tan of tobacco stalks, and 140 sprayers.

The Nan-hai Hsien People's Government has also distributed 550,000 shih chin of 94-percent-pure seed with a sprouting rate of 95 percent for the use of families lacking seed. The Chinese People's Bank has made 4,470,000,000 yuan of farm loans to pay spring plowing, seed, and water-supply expenses.

Because of better care, the death rate among draft animals has been reduced more than 50 percent and the animals are much healthier.

NEW METHOD OF COMBATING COTTON APHIDS -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 26 Feb 54

Chinese entomologist Chu Hung-u has devised a new method of combating aphids in cotton. He and his assistant Chang Kuang-hsueh worked under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Academia Sinica on problems connected with cotton. In 1953, an experimental village which used the new method had an incidence of dormant aphids of only 5.4 plants per thousand or more. The experimental village had an increase in cotton production from 196.8 catties per mou in 1952 to 246.2 catties per mou in 1953, while neighboring villages had lower production in 1953 because of various natural hazards.

FERTILIZER COMPANY USES GARBAGE AS RAW MATERIAL -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 15 Jan 54

The local government-managed [State-operated?] Ch'eng-tu Fertilizer Company is making a granular fertilizer that has proved very effective in use. It is now being made in large quantities and preparations are being made to use machinery in its manufacture. Garbage, night soil, and other materials are used. The method was devised with the cooperation of the Szechwan Agricultural Science Research Institute and advanced Soviet experience was studied.

The fertilizer was first used experimentally in June 1953 on rice, corn, cotton, and sweet potatoes with very good results. A granular fertilizer is not easily washed off by rain and thus is effective for a longer time. The properties of this fertilizer are similar to those of oil cake, but it is easier to apply and transport and the price is about 28 percent lower than that of oil cake.

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DEMONSTRATION FARMS ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 16 Jan 54

Eighteen demonstration farms in the eastern part of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region are now leading farmers in the drive for increased production. These farms are using modern farm implements and advanced scientific techniques to provide examples of high production and to help farmers improve their production techniques by encouraging the use of improved seed and new-model equipment.

In 1953, the Cha-lan-tun model farm distributed more than 57,000 catties of improved seed to neighboring agricultural production cooperatives, mutual aid teams, and farmers, in order to improve wheat and soybeans. Those who used the improved seed greatly increased their yields.

INCREASES EFFICIENCY BY USE OF HORSE-DRAWN IMPLEMENTS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 16 Jan 54

P'ao-tzu Farm in Fou-hsin Hsien, Liao-hsi Province, has a total of 200 hectares of land, 6 cadres, 27 workers, 32 draft animals, 2 sets of new-model horse-drawn implements, and 10 combination cultivating and hilling machines. In 1953, the farm planted 60 hectares in corn, 17 hectares in spiked millet, 3 hectares in alfalfa, and 1 1/2 hectares in cotton, thus reaching the highest efficiency currently achieved by horse-drawn implements in the Northeast. Preliminary statistics show a net production value for the farm of 130 million yuan. The main reason for this success is the efficient use of horse-drawn implements. The experience of this farm shows the importance of the following measures: (1) careful planning, (2) development of a positive attitude on the part of workers, (3) proper care and use of draft animals, and (4) proper use and maintenance of farm implements.

INDUSTRY BENEFITS AGRICULTURE IN TIENSIN -- TA-KU AREA -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 20 Dec 53

Development of industrial production has brought great benefits to eastern Hopeh Province. At present, the Tientsin -- Ta-Ku area has a total of 37 electrically powered water-distribution stations. The area irrigated by these stations totals 220,000 mou. This is more than twice the amount of land irrigated with electrically pumped water 4 years ago.

Near Lu-t'ai, the installation of a water-distribution station consisting of a 150-horsepower electric motor and 5 pumps ranging from 700 to 900 millimeters in diameter, enabled the rapid reclamation of 15,000 mou of alkaline land.

STATE FARM PROGRAM FOR 1954 IN CENTRAL-SOUTH 1954 -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 25 Feb 54

The Central-South Administrative District will establish, enlarge, or improve 15 state farms in 1954. This work will be carried on in accordance with the principles of "low investment, quick return, high yield, and avoidance of conflict with the people." These 15 farms will have a total area of 660,000 mou. Calculating on the basis of an average yield of 30 shih chin of grain per mou, these farms will supply 200 million shih chin of grain to the nation annually.

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ESTABLISH FIRST MECHANIZED STATE FARM IN KWANGTUNG -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao,
4 Jan 54

The Chu-chiang Mechanized State Farm in Kwangtung Province was formally established on 1 January 1954. The farm was formed from the Wan-ch'ang-sho farm of the Kwangtung Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry and a collective farm operated by returned overseas Chinese. The land to be cultivated in 1954 is 15,000 mou; the farm has two medium tractors and six small tractors.

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- 3 -